

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-6 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kadah* (U.S. Patent No. 5,699,218) in view of *Hatakoshi et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,742).

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

A Submission of Formal Drawings is submitted herewith. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 by this amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-16 remain currently pending¹, with claims 1-6 and 11-17 under consideration.

Submission of Formal Drawings

A Submission of Formal Drawings incorporating the amendment of the Request for Approval of Drawing Change filed on January 31, 2003 is submitted herewith. Although the present Office Action does not expressly state that the amendment proposed in the January 31, 2003 Request is accepted by the Examiner, Applicants understand that the amendment has been accepted by the Examiner since the present Office Action does not maintain the same drawing objection that was included in the previous Office Action. If Applicants' understanding is inaccurate in this regard, clarification is respectfully requested in the next office communication.

¹ The Office Action, at page 1, incorrectly states that only claims 1-6 and 11-17 are currently pending in this application. Applicants note that, while claims 7-10 are currently withdrawn from consideration, they are still pending in the application.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kadah* in view of *Hatakoshi et al.* To the extent that this rejection might still apply to the claims as newly-amended, it is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Kadah* and *Hatakoshi et al.*, whether taken separately or in combination, do not teach or suggest the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1 as newly-amended including at least “wherein the ridge portions of said first and second laser units face each other at side surfaces of said ridge portion.”

According to an embodiment of the instant invention as claimed, the semiconductor laser device comprises first and second laser units each having a ridge type structure and the ridge portions of the first and second laser units face each other at the side surfaces of the ridge portion.

In contrast to the claimed invention as a whole, *Kadah* discloses a solid-state/electromechanical hybrid relay to connect an AC power source to a load device (16). In particular, *Kadah* discloses an arrangement wherein a triac (22) and a capacitor (24) controls switching of current. In Fig. 5 of *Kadah*, the capacitor (24) is optically coupled to and electrically isolated from the triac (22) through a pair of a bi-directional LED (32) and a phototransistor (36). In addition, the bi-directional LED (32) of *Kadah* comprises a pair of LEDs connected in anti-parallel, but in a single package. See column 5, lines 6-8 of *Kadah*. However, no portion of *Kadah*’s disclosure teaches, or even suggests, a ridge type semiconductor laser or the feature “wherein the ridge portions of said first and second laser units face each other at side surfaces of said ridge portion,” as set forth in independent claim 1.

The Office Action further cites *Hatakoshi et al.*'s Fig. 17 as teaching a ridge type semiconductor laser. However, *Hatakoshi et al.*'s Fig. 17 merely discloses a structure of a single semiconductor laser element including a SQW active layer to reduce a guiding loss and a threshold current. See column 20, lines 18-61 of *Hatakoshi et al.* No portion of *Hatakoshi et al.*'s disclosure teaches, or even suggests, the feature "wherein the ridge portions of said first and second laser units face each other at side surfaces of said ridge portion," as set forth in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that neither *Kadah* nor *Hatakoshi et al.* teaches or suggests the claimed combination as set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended, including at least the feature that "the ridge portions of said first and second laser units face each other at side surfaces of said ridge portion."

M.P.E.P. 2143.03 instructs that "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)." Since, in view of the above, *Kadah* and *Hatakoshi et al.*, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in independent claim 1, as newly-amended, it is respectfully submitted that *Kadah* in view of *Hatakoshi et al.* does not render claim 1 unpatentable. Since claims 2-6 and 11-17 depend from claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that *Kadah* in view of *Hatakoshi et al.* also does not render claims 2-6 and 11-17 unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this

response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

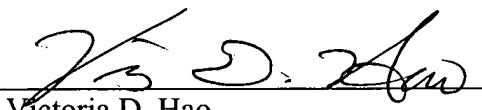
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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